

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 763

By Bunch

A RESOLUTION to commend Robert S. McKee for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, our trusted colleague Representative Robert S. "Bob" McKee is one such distinguished public servant who served his constituency and this legislative body for sixteen years with great honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKee has for many years been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Athens and McMinn County, and he served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1990, the good people of House District 23 in McMinn and Monroe counties evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Bob McKee by electing him as their representative to the General Assembly, a position in which he performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, during his eight terms and sixteen years in the House of Representatives, Bob McKee was prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always voted his conscience; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean born in Athens on April 6, 1943, Bob McKee is a 1961 graduate of McMinn County High School and briefly attended Tennessee Wesleyan College before beginning his business career; and

WHEREAS, a successful businessman, Mr. McKee dedicated many years of his career away from the General Assembly to the operation of his retail tire store, a business he had entered into with his father, and which he eventually sold in 2005; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the General Assembly, Representative McKee was a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process and earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for the outstanding contributions he made as Chairman of the Industrial Impact Subcommittee, Co-Chair of the Joint Select Oversight Committee on Corrections, and as a key member of the Commerce Committee, the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the Budget Subcommittee, the Joint Business Tax Committee, and the Joint Workers Compensation Committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure in the House of Representatives, Robert S. McKee worked assiduously to improve the lives of the citizens of House District 23 and was instrumental in securing funding for various county and city projects, including road improvements, and for the Tennessee Technology Center in Athens; and

WHEREAS, Bob McKee has also ably served the citizens of McMinn County as a member of the McMinn County Council/Commission, first winning election in 1978; during his eight years on the Commission he served terms as Chair of the Budget Committee and Council Chairman; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Bob McKee is a past recipient of the Athens Young Man of the Year award and the Republican Lincoln Award, he was named Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Forest Association and the Tennessee Development Districts, and has been honored by the McMinn Conservation District, the Tennessee School Boards Association, the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Technology Centers, and Cleveland State Community College; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Mr. McKee is a valuable contributor to many civic, professional, and governmental organizations; he has rendered estimable service as a board member of the Tennessee Tire Dealers Association, President of the Athens Jaycees, Exalted Ruler of the P.E.R. Athens Elks Lodge #1927, board member of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, Master

of Meridian Sun Lodge #50, and a member of the Alhambra Shrine Temple and the McMinn County Economic Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual individual, Bob McKee is an active member of Keith Memorial United Methodist Church, which he has faithfully served in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, devoted to family values of the highest standard, Mr. McKee enjoyed over thirty years of marriage to the former Marion "Honeybee" Shell of Athens who passed away in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Bob McKee is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, the former Kristi Alverson, of Nashville; and he is the proud father of two devoted sons, four treasured grandsons, and a beloved stepdaughter; and

WHEREAS, Bob McKee is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it an honor to pause in our deliberations to recognize our distinguished colleague; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Robert S. McKee for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of House District 23 and McMinn and Monroe counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Bob McKee our best wishes for much success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.